

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 116239

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF FJ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR FIJI

REF: SUVA 511

1. INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE MESSAGE DATED APRIL 27, 1975,
TO DIPLOMATIC POSTS INSTRUCTED POSTS TO APPROACH HOST
GOVERNMENTS AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AS A RESULT OF THE SUDDEN COLLAPSE IN VIETNAM, THOUSANDS
OF VIETNAMESE ARE FLEEING THE COUNTRY. SOME ARE LEAVING
THROUGH THEIR OWN MEANS, OTHERS THROUGH OUR FACILITIES. AT
THIS POINT, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY VIETNAMESE WILL LEAVE
VIETNAM. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE
PLIGHT OF THESE REFUGEES DESERVES THE SYMPATHY AND HELP OF
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THE WORLD COMMUNITY. THIS IS A TRAGEDY OF ENORMOUS HUMAN

PROPORTIONS WHICH SIMPLY CANNOT BE IGNORED OR OVERLOOKED.

B. THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONDING VIGOROUSLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO MEET THIS HUMAN PROBLEM. WE HAVE LAUNCHED A MAJOR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN THIS COUNTRY AND ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THOUSANDS OF THESE REFUGEES IN KEEPING WITH OUR TRADITIONS AND THE UNITED STATES' OWN INVOLVEMENT WITH VIETNAM AND ITS PEOPLE. WE ARE MORE THAN

FULLY PREPARED TO TAKE ON THE MAJOR BURDEN OF THIS PROBLEM.

C. THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES (UNHCR, ICE AND THE ICRC) ON THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE. WE EXPECT THEY WILL APPROACH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND THAT THEY WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ALL PHASES OF THE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT AS THEY HAVE DONE IN OTHER REFUGEE MOVEMENTS.

D. IN FACE OF THE ENORMITY OF THE PROBLEM THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES MORE IS REQUIRED. SPECIFICALLY, WE URGE ALL COUNTRIES TO SHARE THE BURDEN BY ACCEPTING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF REFUGEES INTO THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WE REALIZE THE SPECIFIC NUMBER WILL DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH COUNTRY, BUT EACH SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SOME. WE WOULD HOPE FOR A MINIMUM OF 100 PER COUNTRY AND MUCH MORE FROM OTHERS. WE RECOGNIZE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOME LDC'S DOES NOT PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF POOR REFUGEES, BUT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE VIETNAMESE WITH PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. THERE ARE A SMALLER NUMBER OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO WILL BE SEEKING HOMES. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT PROSPECTS FOR THESE REFUGEES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS.

E. FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GVN, WE WOULD URGE THEY ARE TREATED HUMANELY AND BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN, IF THEY WISH. WE ALSO EXPECT COUNTRIES TO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO ARRIVE BY THEIR OWN MEANS.

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F. IN CONCLUSION, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS OUR FIRM INTENTION TO HONOR OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. WE HOPE OTHERS WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND IN GOOD CONSCIENCE TO THIS IMMENSE TRAGEDY.

2. THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES AUTHORITY FOR YOU TO APPROACH

GOF OFFICIALLY TO REQUEST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN RESETTLING
REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK CASE,
IN OUR VIEW, IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW GOF COULD
SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE OFFICIAL
REQUEST ON THEIR BEHALF AND ALSO ASK GOF IF THERE ARE
OTHER WAYS IN WHICH THEY COULD HELP INTERNATIONAL EFFORT
TO RESETTLE REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. INGERSOLL

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